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hind the bush," as they say; and maybe "stolen milk" is the sweetest, and there is no use calling milk poison, when all the world understands the differ. And I can tell you I know plenty of lads who was taught to read and write in the national school, that reads the LAYMAN as well as me, and don't we discuss it together; and think it is no wonder that the priests won't answer all the Greek and the Latin, and other languages too, which puzzle us entirely to make out what they mane. By the same token I don't think our priest, or his cojutor either, knows as much Greek as would fit on a sixpence, and its much aisier, no doubt, to curse the boys as read your paper (and a civil spoken paper it is, in my humble judgment), than to prove purgatory out of the old Fathers of the three centuries, as you begged them to do, twist over, if not three times itself. But that brings me back, and I beg pardon from wandhering away from what I want to know. Do you really think the priest's curse does people any harm, or is it just like the ould threat of the foxes, and hares, and goats, that they used to be threatening the people with when they found the lash of the riding-whip was not enough to regulate their minds, and bring the boys to *raison*, as Father O'Sullivan used to say in ould times, when he'd ride in among them at the fairs and other gatherings where there was a bit of a row? Jem O'Driscoll says he doesn't believe the priest's curse signifies a button, unless the boys are themselves willing to carry it out again one another, which I'm hoping they're beginning not to like as well as they used, when party fights was so common among them, and the bit of land was worth fighting for, which, werasthrue, it has never been since the potatoes went to the bad; and, Mr. Editor, I am myself very nearly of Jem O'Driscoll's mind in the matter, only just I'm doubtful whether it wasn't the priest's cursing the people that made God curse the potatoes, which its as plain as my face (and sure enough I'm as ugly as I need be at any rate, since I got the bating at Castlebar three years ago last August), its as plain as my face that God did curse the potatoes for some raisin best known to himself, and maybe it might be to punish the priests for keeping back the Bible from them as wanted it badly, and is now gone to Americy, to be free to do what they like, and read what they like. I don't myself think the boys is the worse of the cursing; but my notion is, that the priests is a dale worse, though they're no doubt doing their best to conceal it, and keep a good coat on their backs for decency and a good appearance. I beg your pardon humbly, Mr. Editor, for troubling you with this; but when you printed Pat Murray's letter about Kingstown Harbour, which pleased all the boys here very much, specially as they'd often paid themselves for their father's souls, (heaven be their bed!) I thought maybe you'd like to know about the post-office and the friars in the back parlour.—Your humble servant to command,

TIMOTHY M'D.

P.S.—Don't forget to answer me whether you really think Jem Driscoll is right or not about the cursing.

We beg T. M'D.—to borrow from his friend the first number of our paper, in which he will find our ideas in full on the subject of priestly cursing, both as to its sinfulness and inefficacy; and though we cannot insure them against violence from the priest's followers, we can assure T. M'D. and his friends that the priest's curse will do them no other harm, and they need not fear God's curse, if they do nothing to break the law of God, as laid down in the Holy Scriptures. He will also find, in the same number, an accurate report of a trial at the Antrim assizes, on the 20th of March, 1846, before the late eminent Judge Burton, where a miller, named Charles M'Loughlin, recovered £70 damages, and above £100 costs, against a Roman Catholic priest, for cursing him from the altar. We shall, at an early opportunity, call the attention of our readers to another reported law case, where £125 damages was recovered against a Roman Catholic bishop, at the Lifford assizes, for excommunicating from the altar one Philip Boyle, which, we are assured, has put a stop to such proceedings in that part of the country ever since.

If any of our readers, who shall be cursed by their priests for reading the LAYMAN, would have the courage to try the effect of the miller's remedy, we will venture to foretell, the priests will leave them alone for the rest of their lives. We feel obliged to Mr. M'D. for his suggestions as to the post-office; and having received several similar hints from other parts of the country, we have lodged a complaint before the General Post-office authorities on the subject, and have been assured of their active co-operation in detecting and punishing the offenders under the Post office Offences' Act (1 Vict., c. 36), which subjects to fine and imprisonment, with or without hard labour and solitary confinement, any one who shall, for any purpose, destroy, detain, or delay any newspaper, or other printed paper whatever, sent by the post, or who shall aid, counsel, solicit, or endeavour to procure any other person to do so.

It is high time that back parlour proceedings should be put a stop to, though we have reason to believe that Roman Catholic postmasters, in general, know their duty better than to allow any one to induce them to lend

themselves to such illegal and arbitrary interference with her Majesty's post-office establishment.

INDULGENCES.

We had hoped that Dr. Keane, or some other learned Roman Catholic divine, would have responded to our invitation to furnish our readers with an authoritative explanation, from "a living, speaking tribunal," of the points necessary to establish that the blessings said to flow from indulgences are not chimerical, but founded in reality; but regret they have not done so.

We have not space, in our present number, for inserting the results of our own reading and thinking upon the subject, but have not forgotten our promise to consider, at the earliest opportunity in our power, the force of the best reasons we have been able to find in Roman Catholic controversialists in support of the doctrine and practice in question.

FARM OPERATIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

Wheat.—Good and seasonable weather for sowing wheat has much influence on the crop, and, with the best farmers, from the latter end of September and during October is considered the best seed season, particularly in light, rich soils; but hitherto the necessity of permitting the potato crop full and sufficient time to come to maturity, has been the cause of wheat not being generally sown in Ireland until this month, and, therefore, farmers considered themselves particularly fortunate in getting in the wheat crop any time during the month of November. We would, however, much rather see the wheat sowing concluded within October; the ground is in much better order, not so much saturated with wet, and much less seed will be required; it will tiller more evenly, and be more early in for the sickle—advantages of the utmost importance to the farmer, besides leaving the present month so much more at liberty to the different other farming operations necessary to the advancement of the spring's work. We would, therefore, impress upon our friends the necessity of losing no time in finishing wheat sowing, where that operation has not been performed, ample directions for which have been given in the preceding month.

Winter Vetches may still be sown, provided the soil be not very wet; they are best sown in beds from 6 to 8 feet wide, and a little manure will be necessary; about 4 bushels of seed will sow an Irish acre; 3 or 4 stones of rye may be sown with it, or the same quantity of the Don or winter oats.

Rye, Bere, or Winter Barley may also be sown any time this month, either for a soiling crop, usually called stolen crops, or to stand for seed; from 16 to 20 stones will sow an Irish acre, according as the land is poor or rich.

Beans and Peas.—The Mazagan or Russian bean and gray or hog peas may still be sown any time during this month. For directions see last month's operations.

Parsnips and Early Cabbages.—No time should be lost in finishing the sowing of parsnips, to come in early next July, and transplanting early cabbages, where those necessary operations have not been completed last month.

Stall-feeding.—If the cattle intended for fattening were not put up for this purpose last month, no further time should be lost in doing so; the loss in condition consequent on a fortnight, or even a week's delay, will throw the cattle back a month or six weeks in coming to maturity, and will be severely felt by the feeder, in not having the command of the market at the proper time. The cattle, to be profitable in stall-feeding, should be put up in good, warm, and thriving condition, which will not be the case if left out any longer this cold, stormy weather; they will lose more flesh in a night than can be put on in a week. When first put in, they should be sparingly fed on the white or inferior class of turnips or cabbages, keeping the better, or more keeping sorts—hybrids, Aberdeens, Swedes, and mangels—for the last, in the order above named, increasing the quantity as they get accustomed to the food. In feeding, the best rule is to feed three times a day—at 8 in the morning, 12 at noon, and 5 in the afternoon, giving each beast as much roots as it can cleanly consume. The troughs should then be cleaned out of all unconsumed food, and 3 or 4 lbs. of sweet hay given each, when they should be left at rest and undisturbed till the hour comes for the next feed. The unconsumed food, whether roots or hay, should be given to the store or young cattle, which will greedily eat it up, and nothing be lost. As to the quantity necessary, a beast weighing between 6 and 7 cwt., when finished, will consume, on an average, from the time of putting up until finished, about 1½ cwt. of roots daily, and at the commencement about ¼ cwt. of hay; but as it progresses to maturity, the quantity of hay consumed will be less and less, till in the end it will not amount to over 10 or 12 lbs.; but they will consume the usual quantity of roots till they finally leave the stalls fattened. Cattle thus fed, on roots and hay alone, will be, according to the condition they are put up, finished from the latter end of February to the middle of March; but if they be allowed a little bruised oats, barley, linseed-meal, or oil-cake, the period of fattening will be much shortened.

Sheep may also be housed and fed on roots and hay, and will pay well for their keep, both in flesh and wool; besides, quantities of the richest manures will be made. Breeding ewes and stores should be allowed a little hay and salt, and lambs should get an allowance of turnips and hay.

Milk Cows should now be housed at night, and a few hours in the yards, or a dry paddock, should be all the liberty they should be allowed. If let out in the fields they only poach the land, which is very injurious, if tender, and the manure dropt is lost. Their food should be cooked, consisting of cabbages, turnips, mangels, parsnips, carrots, chopped hay or straw, and the tailings of wheat, oats, or barley.

Stores should be kept close in the house, if there be room, or in good, well-sheltered yards, with open sheds. Remember, dry lodging and generous keep are necessary to insure and develop good form, which will, in the end, command the greatest returns.

Pigs for fattening should now have abundance of cooked food. We take it that, for some time to come, pigs will be the best paying stock—much better than either beef or mutton—and their increase should be particularly encouraged. Turnips, mangels, carrots, parsnips, bean and pea meal, &c., to which may be added some chandlers greaves, will pay better in feeding this stock than in any other way they can be disposed of; they should be kept perfectly dry, comfortable, and clean, and, as a rule with every animal to be fattened, the troughs, &c., should be carefully cleaned out immediately after the animals have satisfied their appetites.

Roots.—By the end of the month, Aberdeen and Swede turnips, mangels, parsnips, and carrots will be sufficiently matured, and should be carefully taken up and stored, as directed last month.

Potatoes should now be planted, to come into early use. We have nothing to add to last month's directions; but that, as a question has arisen upon the propriety of planting them in lazy-beds or drills, we would recommend both combined; the lazy-beds will undoubtedly give the driest winter lodging to this now more than ever valuable esculent; and we would recommend the beds to be formed from four to six feet wide. Form shallow drills across the beds, 18 inches asunder; drop the potato sets, of which the small-sized whole ones are best, in these drills, twelve inches set from set, covered with a little earth; then place some manure over them, so as that the manure and potato sets may not come into actual contact, and cover them well up out of the furrow, still preserving the raised drill shape, which should be pulled down a little with a rake early in the spring, before the shoots begin to protrude; or to keep over the manuring till spring. A great deal of the desired success depends on the state of the weather at planting, which should be dry.

Grass and Meadow Lands.—Continue to manure grass and meadow lands with either composts, previously prepared, farm-yard manure, bones, marl, or gravel.

Odts and Ends.—Thrashing should go on unceasingly, in order to have fresh straw for the cattle, which will do much better on that which is fresh and sweet than on that which is stale and musty. Admit the water to the irrigated or watered meadows, which should be constantly watched, so that the water flows constantly, freely, and evenly over the surface, without stagnation on any portion, and see that the discharging drains are unobstructed. Draining and subsoiling should be particularly attended to when the weather is open, as it is upon the proper execution of all the details respecting this modern improvement that good farming depends; much money is uselessly—nay, viciously, thrown away on these works, for want of the necessary and strict supervision. Keep the plough constantly at work in favourable weather. Grass land and old lea cannot be broken up too soon, in order to secure as much as possible of the ameliorating influence of the winter's alternate frosts and thaws, and the rotting and closing of the sods, and heavy clay lands should be ploughed up now with a full and deep furrow, for the same reason, more particularly as frost prevents cohesion in such lands, and heat promotes it. Coppices should be cleared, and timber felled, and planting proceeded with. This is also the proper time to pull down old, useless, broken fences; mix them with lime, and convert them into rich heaps of compost; form new fences, and repair old ones. When not ploughing, keep the plough at the cart gathering manure, road-scrappings, and the lands, loamy sand, or bog-stuff, for composts; turn old compost-heaps; quarry, and draw home on the kiln, limestone; also turf, and, when to be had at a reasonable distance, culm, to have at hand for burning the lime as wanted. Repair gates and road-ways; thatch and otherwise repair the roofs of out-offices, and lay up harrows, scufflers, horse-hoes, and such implements as may not be wanting till next season, under cover from the weather, first cleaning and putting them in a proper state of repair.

Dean Swift says, that "he never knew any man rise to eminence who lay in bed of a morning;" and Doctor Franklin, in his peculiar manner, says, "that he who rises late may trot all day, but never overtakes his business."